

**100% CLEAN ENERGY RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND ALDERMAN
OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH:**

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah is responsible for promoting the public health and safety of its residents, including access to clean air and water and a livable environment using safe, clean, and renewable energy, described hereafter as clean energy; and

WHEREAS there is a clear scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change; the connection with human activities that create greenhouse gases; how it is presently harming our community; and the analysis of current trends confirming that future generations will experience an ever-escalating crisis; and

WHEREAS climate change will cause unprecedented environmental hazards, including extreme heat, loss of property, and flooding to our region, seriously threatening our natural resources, infrastructure, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS Savannah has a historically high poverty-rate among its residents, which disproportionately impacts people of color, children and the elderly who will disproportionately suffer the economic, environmental, health, and social hardships of climate change, and expend an excessive percentage of their income compared to their more affluent neighbors; and

WHEREAS our youth and Savannah's future generations will be harmed more substantially by climate disruption than those elders who currently hold positions of authority, and will suffer the catastrophic consequences caused by imprudent decisions of the past and present, assuming the heavy burden of coping with the overwhelming challenges of sea-level rise, natural resource destruction, and numerous other climate impacts; and

WHEREAS the combustion, extraction, processing, and distribution of fossil and other carbon-based fuels pose a substantial threat to human and environmental health through increased air and water pollution, sea-level rise, climate-driven extreme weather events, and accelerated degradation and loss of species and habitats; and

WHEREAS Savannah's residents, infrastructure, and economy are highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and the development of locally-generated clean energy will increase the City's resilience and reduce the costly and hazardous impacts of power loss during natural disasters; and

WHEREAS clean energy includes energy derived from wind, solar, existing and low impact hydroelectric, geothermal and wave technology; and switching to these sources will reduce air, water, and land pollution and the costs associated with mitigating damage to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS the market price of solar and wind energy is rapidly falling and opportunities such as community solar, distributed energy generation, and microgrids are making clean electricity more affordable, feasible, and desirable; and

WHEREAS the development of the clean-energy sector has already created 76,500 high-paying jobs in Georgia, with significant employment growth expected as in-state investments increase; and

WHEREAS there is a clear, compelling, and mutual benefit between alleviating the impacts of poverty and transitioning to a truly green and sustainable economy;

THEREFORE, THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVE that One Hundred Percent (100%) of electricity consumed in the City of Savannah shall be generated from safe, clean, and renewable energy by 2035, and all other energy needs shall be generated from safe, clean, and renewable energy by 2050.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Savannah commits itself to develop a clean-energy action plan within 18 months of the adoption of this resolution, by inviting partnerships with utilities, institutional partners, industries, businesses, non-profit and community-based organizations, and residents, as well as collaborating with surrounding communities in achieving aligned clean-energy and equity goals. This body also commits to re-evaluating these goals and associated planning efforts at least once every three years, as technologies, policies, and economic feasibility of these commitments change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Savannah will establish and monitor interim targets of 30% clean energy by 2025, and 50% clean energy by 2030.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Savannah will develop and implement policies and programs that lead to a comprehensive effort to successfully support this transition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Savannah will develop procedures for purchasing equipment, supplies, and services that include methods for minimizing the greenhouse gas emissions caused by producing and using these goods and services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Office of Sustainability may request additional funds in subsequent fiscal year budgets and will actively pursue public/private partnerships and grant opportunities to be used solely for purposes of this legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Savannah will actively pursue collective State policy advocacy to promote these goals with other Georgia municipalities that have passed similar resolutions, including Atlanta, Athens-Clarke County, Clarkston, Augusta, and others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these efforts will work in a manner to redress historical inequities in our community. The City of Savannah will prioritize resources to train and hire people from within frontline and fence-line communities to participate in the energy conservation, energy efficiency and clean energy workforce, and facilitate energy efficiency upgrades, opportunities for clean transportation, and clean energy installations in low-income communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Savannah will include low-income citizens in the benefits derived, including the promotion of quality careers adhering to local source hiring, a just transition for workers displaced by fossil fuel reduction, equitable access through ownership and benefits to new opportunity for historically marginalized communities and affordable clean energy options.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution is effective immediately upon approval.

The Mayor and Aldermen hereby direct the City Manager and staff to support this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of [Month] 2020.